New drugs policy

693. SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the details of the new drug policy which has recently been announced by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): No new drug policy has recently been announced by the Government.

High price of Medicines

694. SHRI HAYAT ULLA ANSARI:

SHRI SYED RAHMAT ALI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Myth of low prices, profits' which appeared in the 'Times of India' dated the 26th June, 1985;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines have gone up and profits of Drug companies have increased during the last four years in spite of the fact that there is a price control;

(c) whether it is a fact that price index does not show correct picture because it is based on prices of most obsolete and old drugs of peripheral importance;

(d) whether it is also a fact that drug manufacturers have made huge unintended profits during last five years and recovery of unintended profits has not been made; and

(e) if so, what is the total collection of unintended profits made from private drug manufacturing companies during the last five years alongwith the names of the companies and amount collected from each?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Increases in prices of medicines wherever justified have been allowed in accordance with the provisions of the Drugs Price Control Order and based on the recommendations of the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices to compensate the manufacturers for increase in input costs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Instances of drug companies procuring bulk drugs at prices lower than the prices allowed in the formulations have come to the notice of the Government. Notices have been issued to a number of companies and after calling for the details of procurements, price of procurements etc. the difference between the price of the bulk drug allowed in the formulations and actual procurement price has been worked out and communicated to a number of manufacturers for eventually depositing into the Drug Prices Equalisation Account. None of such manufacturers have deposited the amount due into the Drugs Prices Equalisation Account during the past 5 years. The process is on in accordance with the due procedure of Law. In one case of M/s. Fulford India Ltd. the company have filed a writ petition in the Delhi High Court against the notice of the recovery and obtained stay of further proceedings against them.

12 NOON

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notifications of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) under section 159 of the Customs Act 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Sir, on behalf of **Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh**, I beg to lay on the Table :—

I. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifica-